



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Office of Emergency Medical Services

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## ADVISORY (PLEASE POST)

**TO:** All MA Ambulance Services  
**FROM:** Jon Burstein, MD, State EMS Medical Director  
Louise Goyette, Director  
**DATE:** August 5, 2004  
**RE:** Administration of nitrates for patients taking Viagra™ (sildenafil) or similar drugs

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The Statewide Treatment Protocols (STP) currently address the usage of nitrates in patients on Viagra™ (sildenafil). Recently, the Food and Drug Administration has approved new drug products in this class.

### Effective immediately: Emergency Protocol Change

**Change from standing orders to a medical control order.**

**For patients, both male and female, who have, within the last 48 hours, taken any medications classified in the phosphodiesterase-type-5 inhibitor category (e.g. sildenafil, vardenafil, tadalafil), nitrates should not be administered unless medical control has been contacted and has provided the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B; EMT-I; EMT-P) with a medical control order to administer nitrates.**

Please distribute this Advisory to **all** EMTs and your employees with dispatch roles, and ensure that they comply with all current and applicable rules, regulations, policies and protocols.

If you have any further questions, please refer them either to Abdullah Rehayem, Manager, Ambulance Regulation Program, or Tom Quail, RN, Clinical Coordinator. Thank you.